



NEWS

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See MCI v. FCC, 515 F 2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

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COMMISSION FURTHER STREAMLINES SATELLITE EARTH STATION LICENSING TO FACILITATE SWIFT DEPLOYMENT OF BROADBAND SERVICES TO CONSUMERS

Washington, D.C.- The Federal Communications Commission adopted, as part of its “Consent Agenda” at today’s Commission open meeting, modified licensing rules that will streamline the review of non-routine earth station applications and speed the availability of broadband satellite services to consumers. In two separate items, a Fifth Report & Order and a Sixth Report & Order/Third Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, the Commission adopted changes to the current Part 25 technical and processing rules and proposed further changes designed to reduce review time for non-routine earth station applications. Non-routine earth stations, often used to provide satellite-based broadband internet access, are earth stations that have smaller antenna diameters or operate at higher power levels than those specified in Part 25 of the Commission’s rules.

In the Fifth Report & Order, the Commission adopted two new streamlined procedures for case-by-case review of applications for smaller-than-routine earth stations:

1. **Certification Procedure:** Applicants can provide certifications of prior coordination with satellite operators that ensure that proposed stations will not cause unacceptable interference to their operations.
2. **Power Reduction:** Applicants can file applications and specify that they will operate at a lower enough power level to prevent interference.

The item also adopts similar certification procedures for proposed earth stations with higher-than-routine power.

In the Sixth Report & Order, the Commission adopted additional technical rule changes, including updating the rules for Very Small Aperture Terminals (VSAT) networks using Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA), so that the requirements are consistent in different frequency bands. The Third Further Notice proposed rules that would give earth station operators more flexibility to adjust their operations to meet market-place demands.

The new procedures and technical rules are designed to allow the Commission to more quickly review and act upon applications, and ultimately speed new broadband services to consumers.

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